Inventor(s): BUTTERS et al. Application No.: 09/980,584

Attorney Docket No.: 041301-0284110

## I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium for digital imaging, comprising a substrate having a dye-receiving surface bearing a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed [is] in a host polymer, wherein the host polymer has a Tg of <50°C.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups selected from OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NR<sub>2</sub>, COOH, CONH<sub>2</sub>, NHCOR, CONHR, SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NHR, SO<sub>3</sub>H, NHCONH<sub>2</sub>, NHCONHR, =NOH and PO<sub>3</sub>H, in which R is selected from CH, NO<sub>2</sub>, Cl, F, Br, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, NHCOC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, NHCOphenyl, NHSO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, NHSO<sub>2</sub>phenyl and aryloxy.

- Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to claim 1, 2, or 20, wherein at least 50% of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry [fractional] functional groups.
- Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the highly branched polymer has a molecular weight of at least 1000.
- Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the radius of gyration of the highly branched polymer is in the range 2 nm to 10 nm.
- Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the host polymer is selected from polymers including polyesters, acrylic polymers, vinyl polymers, poly(vinyl pyridine), vinyl pyrrolidone/vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymers, and cellulosic polymers.
- Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the highly branched polymer is present in an amount in the range 10% to 90% by weight of the coating.
- Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is in the form of a film or sheet of material.

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Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is pre-treated prior to application of the coating.

- Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness in the range 1  $\mu$ m to 100  $\mu$ m for media for use in thermal dye transfer printing and in the range 10  $\mu$ m to 50  $\mu$ m for media for use in ink jet printing.
- Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes particulate filler material.
- Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, including a top coat over the coating.
- Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, including one or more back coats on the side of the substrate remote from the dye-receiving surface.
- Claim 14. (Original) A method of making a receiver medium, comprising applying to a dye-receiving surface of a substrate a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed in a host polymer, wherein the host polymer has a Tg <50°C.
- Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method of printing, comprising applying dye to the dye-receiving surface of receiver medium in accordance with claim 1 by a digital imaging technique.
- Claim 16. (Original) A digital imaging receiver medium/dye combination in which the receiver medium comprises a substrate having a dye-receiving surface bearing a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed in a host polymer having a Tg < 50°C, and the dye is capable of interacting with the highly branched polymer.
- Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 16, wherein the receiver medium comprising a substrate having a dye-receiving surface bearing a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed [is] in a host polymer, wherein the host polymer has a Tg of <50°C and wherein at least some

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of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups selected from OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NR<sub>2</sub>, COOH, CONH<sub>2</sub>, NHCOR, CONHR, SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NHR, SO<sub>3</sub>H, NHCONH<sub>2</sub>, NHCONHR, =NOH and PO<sub>3</sub>H, in which R is selected from CH, NO<sub>2</sub>, Cl, F, Br, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, NHCOC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, NHCOphenyl, NHSO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, NHSO<sub>2</sub>phenyl and aryloxy.

- Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 16, wherein the dye has functional groups complementary to functional groups of the highly branched polymer.
- Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 16, wherein the highly branched polymer and dye are capable of interacting by acid-base reaction.
- Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 2, wherein at least some of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups having at least one H atom.
- Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein at least 70% of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups.
- Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the highly branched polymer is present in an amount in the range 20% to 60% by weight of the coating.
- Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 13, wherein the coating has a thickness of 50 µm or less for media for use in thermal dye transfer printing.
- Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A receiver medium according to claim 13, wherein the coating has a thickness in the range from 2  $\mu$ m to 10  $\mu$ m for media for use in thermal dye transfer printing.